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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,262	03/13/2001	Masahiro Noguchi	S004-4246	3201

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EXAMINER

RAHMJOO, MANUCHER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,262

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Rahmjoo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 13 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 13 line 12 on page 9 recites "...for displaying a cursor...". It is not clear to the examiner where the cursor is being displayed.

As per claim 28 line 20 on page 12 recites "...in the same direction...". It is not clear to the examiner what direction the same direction is making a reference to.

Claims 14- 27 and 29- 30 are indefinite because of depending on previously rejected independent claims.

Further clarification of these and other possible claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 13- 20, 22- 25, and 28- 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kahn et al (US Patent 5,844,544), hereinafter, Kahn.

As per claims 13, 14 and 28 Kahn teaches displaying a plurality of individually-selectable character groups each containing one or more characters that may be input by a user on a key display portion of the display unit see for example column 3 lines 7- 14, column 15 lines 46- 50 and figure 2; displaying a cursor on the display unit for indicating a selected character group and a selected character see for example column 3 lines 15- 21 and figures 2-5 ; moving the cursor from one to another character group in one of plural directions in response to operation of the multi-directional switch in the same direction see for example column 3 lines 32- 35 and figures 2- 5; displaying the characters contained in a specific character group in response to selection of the specific character group by operation of a decision key (confirmation field or zone) see for example column 10 lines 43- 60, and figures 2- 5;

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moving the cursor from one to another of the displayed characters of the specific character group in one of plural directions in response to operation of the multi directional switch in the same direction see for example column 3 lines 20- 28 and figures 2- 5 and also a manually operated switch for the cursor movement see for example column 15 lines 39- 45; and displaying, in a character input section of the display unit, a specific character from the plural displayed characters of the specific character group in response to operation of the decision key, so that character input is achieved without use of a keyboard see for example column 9 and lines 24- 33, column 10 lines 21- 27 and figures 1- 5.

As per claim 15 Kahn teaches the display unit further comprises a character display section for displaying user-input characters see for example column 6 lines 20- 21, and figures 1- 5.

As per claim 16 Kahn teaches the processor controls the display unit to display the one or more characters of a character group selected by activation of the decision key and a cursor for indicating a selected character group see for example column 3 lines 7- 8 (unit 12) and figure 1.

As per claims 17 and 29 Kahn teaches the processor includes case switching means for switching between upper case and lower case characters in response to operation of the multidirectional manually operated switch in a given direction, and causing the display unit to display alphabetic characters of the characters groups in a selected case see for example column 7 lines 17- 28 and column 15 lines 39- 45.

As per claims 18 and 30 Kahn teaches a memory for storing a plurality of

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character types each containing characters of a specific language arranged in the character groups; and character type selecting means for selecting a desired character type see for example column 9 lines 6- 23 and figure 2.

As per claim 19 Kahn teaches the character groups each comprise a different group of letters of an alphabet see for example column 11 lines 24- 39 and figure 2.

As per claim 20 Kahn teaches letters are sequentially arranged in the respective character groups see for example figure 2.

As per claim 22 Kahn teaches the information processing device is keypadless and has no keypad for character entry see for example column 4 lines 32- 42 and figure 1.

As per claim 23 Kahn teaches the character groups are arranged in a matrix in the key display section see for example column 7 line 31 and figure 2.

As per claim 24 Kahn teaches the cursor is displayed in a center of the matrix in an initial display of the character groups (user's gaze at the discretion of the user)see for example column 11 lines 14- 17.

As per claim 25 Kahn teaches the display unit further comprises a character display section for displaying user-input characters see for example column 9 lines 24- 26.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al (US Patent 5,844,544), hereinafter, Kahn.

As per claim 21 Kahn does not teach the character groups each comprise different character groups of the Japanese language.

However, Kahn teaches different character groups of the English language as shown in figure 2.

It would have been made obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the character groups in a different language (i.e. Japanese) to satisfy the user requirement for any language, based on his/ her knowledge of a specific language and therefore increase the versatility of the device.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al (US Patent 5,844,544) in view of Harrison (US Patent 6,184,804).

As per claims 26 and 27 Kahn does not teach the information processing device

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is configured as a portable device and a wrist-wearable case in which the processor, the display unit, and the multidirectional manually operated switch are disposed.

However, Harrison teaches the information processing device is configured as a portable device and a wrist-wearable case in which the processor, the display unit, and the multidirectional manually operated switch are disposed see for example figures 15-22 and column 16 lines 16- 17.

It would have been made obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Harrison into Kahn to provide an improved means of data entry to add greater mobility, ease, comfort and efficiency of use see for example column 3 lines 36- 40.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, 6,232,970, 6,232,969, 6,396,482, 5,956,021, 6,522,347, 6,487,424, and 4,655,621.

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Inquiry

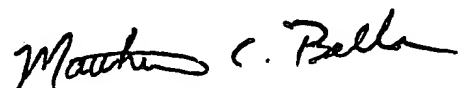
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Rahmjoo whose telephone number is (703) 305-5658. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30- 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (703) 308- 6829. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872- 9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

Mike Rahmjoo

September 29, 2003



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600